Dear St. Nicholas family,

Each year as we approach the Nativity Fast and prepare to celebrate our Savior's birth, it is once again time for us, as a community, to consider how to be good stewards of what the Lord has given us. To be stewards means to remember that all we have is "from above." The Lord calls us to use what He has given us to serve Him and His Body. This includes the resources of our time and our abilities, as well as our financial resources. These three kinds of blessings—our time, our talents, and our treasure—are the sacrificial gifts we offer our Lord, like gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The Biblical standard for giving is the tithe: 10% of what we receive. Of course, the tithe really represents the gift of our whole selves offered up to God. How we tithe our time and talents may not be as obvious to us as how we tithe our treasure. To help us consider ways to contribute to the life of St. Nicholas, there is a ministry list enclosed, with jobs that need to be done for our parish to function in a healthy way.

As we consider our stewardship commitment, it is good to remember that "God loves a cheerful giver." Whatever we give, let it be the "widow's mite" that comes from a grateful heart, with a child-like desire to please the Heavenly Father. May the gifts of our time, talents, and treasure be joined with the sacrifice that God most desires: a heart that is humble and dedicated to Him.

With gratitude and love in Christ,

Fr. Daniel Bethancourt

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
9100 Youree Drive
Shreveport, LA 71115

St. Nicholas
Orthodox Christian Church

2026 Stewardship Form

Time & Talent

In addition to contributions of "treasure," our tithe involves contributions of "time" and "talents." Please use this list to indicate the ways in which you would like to be involved in the life of the parish. Each ministry and task is important for "building up the body of Christ." Indicate whether you'd like to continue a task, or begin a new one. Families, please use initials to mark boxes for each member.

MINISTRIES	SPECIFIC TASKS	CONTINUE	INTERESTED
Worship & Temple Beautification	Altar server (men & boys)		
	Choir/Chanting/Reading		
	Baking prosphora		
	Flower arrangement		
	Caring for items in church (clean, iron, etc.)		
	Seamstress work (repairs, covers, etc.)		
Building & Grounds	Building Committee (plan future construction)		
	Building maintenance & cleaning		
	Gardening & landscaping		
	Clean-up after services & events		
Education & Learning	Teaching Sunday school (or substituting)		
	Maintaining bookstore and/or library		
Youth Ministry	Hosting or coordinating youth activities		
Childcare	Providing child care for events		
Hospitality	Greeting visitors on Sundays		
	Coffee hour teams		
	Hosting or coordinating parish social gatherings		
Pastoral Care & "In-reach"	Visiting sick, shut-ins		
	Providing meals, rides, other special needs		
	Burial Society		
	Phone calls & correspondence		
Outreach	Coordinating community outreach activities		
	Participating in community outreach activities		
Administrative	General office assistance		
	Website/PR		
Other (specify):			

_____

Name(s) (all participating family members)

Treasure

Your annual pledge enables us to budget for our parish's financial needs. The Operating Fund covers general operations and ministries of the parish. For 2025, budgeted expenses for general operations totaled $183,419. Our Building Fund is separate from the Operating Fund; all funds given to the Building Fund go towards our new temple & parish hall. With God's help we hope to begin construction in 2026, and we need your help to reach our goal!

I pledge the following amount for 2026:

Tithe/General Pledge

$

In addition to your Tithe/General Pledge, please consider a pledge to the Building Fund for one or more years:

New Building Fund Pledge

$_____ for 2026 only

-or-

$_____ per year for

☐ **2 years** ☐ **4 years**

☐ **3 years** ☐ **5 years**

_____

Print Name(s)

_____

Signature(s)